

Foster Care Review Board Utilization/Activity Report

For the Month of April 2011

Important Considerations: The number of reviews conducted each month may be impacted by the following: 1) not filling a review specialist vacancy in anticipation of budget cuts in 2011, 2) challenges created by the implementation of the child welfare reform, 3) holidays, 4) staff vacations, and 5) prior budget/staff cuts.

Current Month Statistics

	Reviews in Current Month	Goal for Current Month*	Percent of Monthly Goal Reviewed*	Reviews Year to Date	Goal for Year to Date*	Percent of YTD Review Goal Completed*
Children reviewed	434	350*	124%*	1,641	1,470	112%

*The goal is based on current staffing levels. Since the economic downturn began the FCRB has lost 1 supervisor position, 3 support staff positions, and 5 review specialist positions, thus the FCRB is unable to review all children. A plan is being developed to potentially conduct more reviews; however, due to continuing documentation issues, this likely will not be implemented until the second half of the year at the earliest.

Additional information on children reviewed this month:

IV-E Children Reviewed	192 (44%)	Children age birth-five	127 (29%)
Non IV-E Children Reviewed	242 (56%)	Children age six to 18	307 (71%)

Point in Time Statistics

Total children in out-of-home care on April 29, 2011 4,376 children
 Children who had been in out-of-home care 6 months or longer 2,856 children

Subtotals of those in care 6 months or longer→	Reviewed in the last 6 months	1,974	(69%)
	Reviewed, but not in last 6 months	418	(15%)
	Not reviewed	464	(16%)

Facts regarding the 464 children above:

Age breakdown: 46 children are age 0-5, 60 children are age 6-12, 358 children are age 13-18.

DHHS office/area:

1 is from Beatrice	17 are from Grand Island	12 are from North Platte
1 is from Blair	4 are from Hastings	191 are from Omaha
5 are from Broken Bow	21 are from Kearney	44 are from Papillion
1 is from Center, Nebraska	2 are from Lexington	4 are from Pender
8 are from Columbus	96 are from Lincoln	2 are from Pierce
6 are from Dakota City	7 are from McCook	8 are from York
17 are from Fremont	7 are from Nebraska City	1 is unclear which office
7 are from Gering	2 are from Norfolk	(being researched)

IV-E Status: 16 are IV-E eligible, 448 are not eligible. The 16 IV-E Eligible children include: 3 from Lincoln, 2 from Neb. City, 3 from North Platte, 3 from Omaha, 5 from Papillion.

Work with State Board Chair and Committees

The Director met with the Executive Committee on April 5th and April 21st. The Director and Administrative Coordinator drafted three versions of the strategic plan based on input from the

Chair and Executive Committee. The Director and Administrative Coordinator drafted calendars for each of the committees.

The Executive Director, Data Coordinator, Administrative Coordinator and Tracking System staff participated in a tracking system/data orientation for State Board members on April 18th. The Director and Administrative Coordinator met with the Workload Committee on April 23rd. The Director and Data Coordinator met with the Annual Report Committee on April 25th.

The Director drafted the Director's report that was included in the April 26th mailing sent to State Board members for the May 5, 2011, State Board meeting. The Administrative and Data Coordinators assisted with the update.

Summary of Director's Meetings (additional information was/will be provided in Director's updates)

Work with Senators: During April, the Executive Director met with Senator Campbell, Chair of Health and Human Services, and members of the Appropriations Committee regarding our budget. The Director met with Senator Krist, who requested our priorities for front-line work/correction, and the Director consulted with the Executive Committee on this response.

Judicial Informational Meetings: In April the Chief Justice met with management staff, who described court related issues from their perspectives. The Director continues to serve on the Supreme Court's committee on GAL issues, which met to review proposed GAL standards.

DHHS and Lead Agency Meetings. The Executive Director met with DHHS Director Todd Reckling on April 7th to discuss concerns with educational disruptions for youth at a shelter, and the possibility of a special study. The Director had a meeting on April 6th with one of the Lead Agency Directors to discuss missing documentation and system issues, and had a similar meeting with the other Director on April 8th. May meetings with the lead agency directors were scheduled.

The Director continues to serve on the Partner's Council, a group put together by DHHS to collaborate on pertinent issues. The Director was named Chair of the Council's Rural Task Force.

April 6th the Data Coordinator, Director, Administrative Coordinator, and Tracking System staff met with DHHS technical staff to discuss specifics of what would be needed for an electronic data transfer from DHHS to the FCRB tracking system.

Management meeting. The Executive Director continued to meet with the individual members of the FCRB management team (coordinators and supervisors). A formal meeting of the team was also held to continue coordination of the work of the agency.

Speaking at a conference. The Executive Director was among the speakers for the Nebraska Association of Social Workers spring conference. State Board Chair Georgie Scurfield also spoke at this event.

Work to Ensure Children's Safety (additional information was/will be in Director's updates)

Court attended. Staff attended court on 48 cases involving 90 children during April. The Board's recommendations were introduced in 30 cases where the recommendation had not been

previously introduced into the record.* In 34 cases issues identified by the board were addressed by the courts.

*There is a difference in judicial interpretation of whether the court can accept the Board's recommendation report on its own motion. Once a court has established how reviews are conducted and has established staff professional expertise (often through having our staff present in court), courts generally accept the recommendations report without an attorney introducing the report into the evidence.

Joint staffings with DHHS and/or lead agencies. Staff and/or supervisors staffed 64 individual children's cases involving serious issues with DHHS and/or Lead agencies in April.

Additional calls, emails, letters, meetings. During April the review specialists and/or their supervisor made 84 extra contacts to ensure that issues identified on a child's case were addressed. This consisted of additional calls, emails, letters, and/or meetings.

Facility or foster home visits. There were 4 foster home visits for 5 children in April, and 1 group facility visit for 10 children.

Team meetings. No cases were brought to an 1184 team meeting in April. During April the Review Specialists attended 5 family group conference/team meetings to discuss case issues on behalf of children.

Summary of Staff Collaborative Efforts (additional information was/will be in Director's updates)

Through the Eyes Meetings: In April, Supervisors and/or Review Specialists attended a total of 2 meetings of a Through the Eyes of a Child collaborative team. These meetings include Judges, GALs, prosecutors, DHHS, lead agencies, educators, and other regional stakeholders.

Child and Family Service Reviews: DHHS is conducting practice mini CFSR's to prepare for the Federal CFSR (federal audit). Staff will be involved in the training and actual reviews on a quarterly basis as time allows, e.g., the Review Specialist in the Central Service Area participated in January and again in April.

CQI Team Meetings: Supervisors and the Program Coordinator continued to meet with partners/stake holders, and lead agencies statewide and serve on CQI teams look at issues. A web-cam is being used in the Lincoln office to meet with the Central Service Area administration each month.

Continued work with Lead Agency Quality Control Personnel. Procedures were further refined and utilized for reporting back to the lead agencies when there is a lack of documentation in the physical or computer records for children's cases.

Special Requests Received

Three special requests were received on three children during April. Reasons for the requests for review or assistance included safety concerns and service delivery issues.

Cases Internally Flagged for Action

As part of the data entry process, eight cases involving 10 children were flagged for special action, such as scheduling for review early. Issues included extreme abuse or neglect, abandonment, number of placements and times in care, placement issues.

Statistics Requests

During April there was one request for statistics other than those in the annual report, not including persons using the website to obtain statistics. The Foster Care Closet requested some statistics on the number of children in out-of-home care in particular counties.

Administration and Support

The Data Coordinator attended the meetings of the Partner's Council Subcommittee on Data and assisted the Director in tracking legislation. The Data Coordinator participated in the April 9th meeting with the N-FOCUS technical team on a possible electronic transfer of data. The Data Coordinator helped develop the April 18th Data Orientation for State Board members. On April 21st, the Data Coordinator answered Acela Turco's questions about the Activities Report. The Data Coordinator prepared materials for the April 25th Annual Report Committee meeting. The Data Coordinator also continued to provide statistics and lists from the tracking system for staff and non-staff usage.

The Administrative Coordinator worked with State Board members on improving the State Board Orientation documentation. The Administrative Coordinator attended the Data Orientation for State Board members on April 18th, attended the Open Enrollment meeting for all state agencies on April 25th, trained Susan Staab on the financial reports reviewed by the Fiscal Committee, participated in the Activity Committee phone conference, and attended the preliminary Data Transfer meeting with DHHS, FCRB and Senatorial Staff.

The Administrative Coordinator, Data Coordinator, and Accountant attended mandatory Accounting on-going training the week of April 27th.

The Administrative Coordinator and Administrative Staff continued to track children and their outcomes, process notifications and recommendations, and assure payroll and accounts payable were processed. The Administrative Coordinator continued to supervise case assignment, payroll, and accounting.

The Program Coordinator continued to supervise and assist the Review Specialist Supervisors. The Program Coordinator followed-up on issues identified in March with educational disruptions for youth at a shelter.

The Program Coordinator continued to compile data on meetings and court attendance from review specialists' and supervisors' work documents. These statistics are used starting on page two of the monthly utilization reports. The Program Coordinator also continued to provide some of the narratives for the utilization report.

The Program Coordinator continued to enter the Lack of Documentation data for the monthly reports, and to compile the data to create the 11 different Lack of Documentation Reports that are distributed to DHHS and Lead Agency administration. Reports are shared with the State Board.

Trainings

No trainings for local board members or review specialists were provided or attended in April. The Program Coordinator finalized arrangements for the sites for the summer training programs. Three staff attended mandatory ongoing accounting training.

Personnel

Two staff members had an anniversary date in April. Five person's performance reviews were conducted in April (includes some of those with anniversary dates in prior month).